

## Message Text

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15

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /069 W

----- 063082

P R 080733Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9980

INFO AMCONSUL NAHA

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6096

E.O. 11652: ADS DECLASS AUG 7, 1975

TAGS: SREF, MARR, JA, VS

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF SERVICMEN IN JAPAN (U)

REF: A) NAHA 215 B) COMUSFJAPAN 020715Z MAY

SUMMARY EMBASSY HAS RAISED WITH FONOFF QUESTION OF REFUGEES  
JOINING US MILITARY SPONSORS IN JAPAN. EMBASSY NEEDS GUIDANCE ON  
POINTS RAISED BY FONOFF. EMBASSY QUESTIONS WISDOM OF MANY REFUGEES  
JOINING US SPONSORS IN JAPAN. END SUMMARY

1. EMB MET WITH FONOFF (NUMATA, FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION) TO  
DESCRIBE PROBLEM OUTLINED IN REFTTEL A AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE  
ARRANGMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT REFUGEES TO JOIN US MILITARY SPONSORS  
IN JAPAN. NUMATA AGREED TO EXPLORE MATTER WITH OTHER AGENCIES  
INVOLVED ON EXPEDITIOUS BASIS. WE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR HUMAN  
FACTORS INVOLVED BUT CAUTIONED THAT MATTER INVOLVED COMPLICATED  
LEGAL QUESTIONS FOR GOJ. HE CITED AS EXAMPLE FACT THAT MOST  
REFUGEES IN QUESTION PROBABLY NOT ENTITLED TO SOFA STATUS AND TO  
ITS EXEMPTIONS AND PRIVILEGES.

2. NUMATA ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH WOULD  
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CONCERN OTHER AGENCIES:

A. CAN USG GUARANTEE ULTIMATE ENTRY OF REFUGEES INTO US  
(ASSUMING REFUGEES REMAIN WITH SPONSOR FOR FULL TOUR IN JAPAN)

WHICH COULD BE AS MUCH AS FOUR YEARS)? WHAT FORM WILL GUARANTEE TAKE?

B. WHAT TYPE OF DOCUMENTATION WILL REFUGEE HAVE? IF I-512, WHAT WILL BE PERIOD OF VALIDITY?

C. WHAT GUARANTEE CAN BE MADE FOR SUPPORT IN JAPAN AND FOR TRANSPORTATION TO US? ASSUME SPONSOR WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORT IN JAPAN, BUT USG IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR THOSE COVERED BY SOFA. IN ANY CASE GOJ WILL PROBABLY WANT USG TO UNDERWRITE IN SOME FORM THE PERSONAL GUARANTEES OF SPONSORS.

3. ALTHOUGH NUMATA WAS CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY PREDICTION OF GOJ'S ULTIMATE POSITION ON MATTER, HIS REACTION SUGGESTED THAT GOJ WILL HAVE LEAST DIFFICULTY IN ACCOMODATING REFUGEES WITH SOME CLAIM TO SOFA STATUS, I.E. SPOUSE, PARENT OR CHILD OF US FORCES SPONSOR (SPECIFIC DETAILS IN REF B). IN THOSE CASES PROBLEMS WILL PROBABLY CENTER ON QUESTIONS NOTED PARA TWO ABOVE AND DO NOT APPEAR UNMANAGEABLE.

4. IN CASE OF MORE DISTANT RELATIVES, WHO APPEAR TO BE MORE NUMEROUS, PROBLEMS APPEAR MORE FORMIDABLE. WHATEVER THE GOJ MIGHT WISH, IT IS CLEAR THAT THESE RELATIVES DO NOT HAVE LEGAL BASIS FOR CLAIM TO SOFA STATUS AND THAT OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, PARTICULARLY ON OKINAWA, WILL BE ALERT TO ANY SIGN THAT REFUGEES ARE RECEIVING ILLEGAL SOFA BENEFITS. THE COST TO THE SPONSOR OF PROVIDING OFF-BASE HOUSING AND FOOD COULD BE A REAL HARDSHIP, POSSIBLY PROHIBITIVE FOR LOWER RANKS. MANY OF THE RELATIVES ARE ADULTS AND MIGHT SEEK EMPLOYMENT. (THE GOJ HAS HEARD FROM ITS HONORARY CONSUL ON GUAM THAT SOME OF THE REFUGEES HOPE FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE US FORCES). FINALLY, THE EVENTUAL ADJUSTMENT TO US LIFE WILL BE DELAYED AND PROBABLY COMPLICATED BY ANY PROLONGED TRANSITION IN JAPAN.

5. FOR THESE REASONS EMBASSY HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT WISDOM OF MANY OF THESE REFUGEES JOINING US SPONSORS IN JAPAN. THERE WILL BE EXCEPTIONS OF COURSE (MOST OBVIOUSLY AMONG THOSE WHO MEET CONFIDENTIAL

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SOFA REQUIREMENTS), AND GOJ WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH EXCEPTIONS MORE EASILY THAN WITH RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER. FOR THE REST, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT INTEREST OF ALL WOULD PROBABLY BEST BE SERVED BY MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE US SPONSOR TO JOIN AND ASSIST HIS REFUGEE RELATIVES IN THE US. IN SHORT, COMPASSIONATE TRANSFERS MAY BE THE BEST APPROACH.

6. REQUEST GUIDANCE RE PARA TWO ABOVE.  
HODGSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
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